



**WEARE BOARD OF FIRE WARDS  
MEETING MINUTES  
May 10, 2010  
FINAL**

**PRESENT:** Jon Osborne, Chairman; Frederick W. Hippler, Vice Chairman; Ray Eaton, Interim Fire Chief; Steve Roberts, Dave Hewey, Bill Tiffany, Scott Dinsmore

**GUESTS:** Dan Gorman, Harry Lamb, Jan Snyder

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Sheila Savaria

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Jon Osborne called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM at the Town of Weare Office Building.

**II. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

Dan Gorman - Software Purchase Consideration: Mr. Gorman discussed the reasons he is requesting new scheduling software. EMS Manager would help with scheduling, payroll, has a time clock, and tracks certifications and when they expire. It will also make it easier to send reports to the secretary, finance, etc. The cost is \$1 per person, per month, which equal approximately \$1350 per year, and there is no contract required.

Scott Dinsmore made a motion to accept the EMS Manager and go before the Board of Selectmen to have it approved through the towns Capital Reserve Fund; Frederick Hippler seconded the motion, all voted in favor.

Meeting Minutes: Frederick Hippler moved to accept April 12, 2010 minutes with changes; Steve Roberts seconded, all voted in favor.

**III. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

Stetson Hunt Subdivision Plan - Off of Center Road: The proposal is to subdivide Map 202, Lot 113 into 2 lots as shown on plan provided to the board.

Dave Hewey moved to approve Stetson and Edythe Hunt's subdivision, Frederick Hippler seconded the motion, all voted in favor.

Site Plan - 21 B&B Lane: The proposal is for 7 piles of landscaping material to be allowed on the property (Tax map 411-194).

Dave Hewey made a motion to accept the site plan; Bill Tiffany seconded, all voted in

favor.

#### **IV: OTHER BUSINESS:**

Ray Eaton: Advised the board that he feels Bobby (Robert Richards) should be on as Assistant Chief for another year. - The ladder has been checked, the jaws have been checked, and pump testing is set up for June 18. - Per diem people started last week. - Gary Fitzgerald called him and said that instead of putting a cistern at Daniel's lake, he wants to sprinkle all buildings. - Suggested putting GPS's in the ambulances, so the people who come in from out of town will find the roads more easily.

- Ray Eaton asked Dan Gorman to explain the billing since it was brought up that Weare Fire Department had not been charging enough. Mr. Gorman explained that he had spoken with Mike Emerson from Advance Billing Solutions who said the department hasn't raised rates to keep up with other towns. Mr. Emerson is happy to come out and speak with the department about rates. The board agrees that Mr. Emerson should come out and talk about rates.

Frederick Hippler: Mr. Hippler discussed with the board the standards of the town in terms of cisterns and sprinklers. Once the town adopts a cistern, the town is required to maintain it. Mr. Hippler discussed requiring sprinklers instead of cisterns, so the maintenance cost is put back on the homeowner rather than the town. There was discussion over whether the homeowner would maintain them, and the fact that they were used in strategic areas of town. Mr. Osborne says that as a board, it is their responsibility to put money into maintaining what is already there.

Steve Roberts: In last month's meeting, Jan Snyder asked for clarification on an issue, and Mr. Roberts recommended she speak with the Fire Chief. After doing some research, he realized he was mistaken and that she should actually speak with the Forest Warden. Mr. Roberts apologized for the error. Ray Eaton said that he spoke with the district Ranger, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Forest Fire Department, and thinks he said the Fire Marshall's office is discussing the situation over who has the authority to do what has to be done. Right now it is the EPA, but they don't have the manpower to do it. Jan Snyder clarified that her question was who lets them know? Ms. Snyder spoke with the EPA who said it should be up to the Forest Fire Warden and the town. If they know they are burning something over 5 inches, it is up to the Forest Fire Warden to put it out. Ms. Snyder says it is not up to the EPA. Ray Eaton explains that this is an issue and that is the reason they are going to sit down and discuss what should be done and who is going to do it.

Bill Tiffany: Addressed Dan Gorman in regards to the per diem employees: If 2 per diem people who live out of town respond to an incident, and 2 people within the department respond, and only 2 or 3 people are needed, how is that dealt with? Dan Gorman said that with every shift, they are scheduling one person who is on the department with one person who is not on the department so there is always someone from town who should know the roads. Responders are being told that if they live on the side of the town that the call is on, they can go to the call if they are available. If it is a call that doesn't need a paramedic, they are going to try to keep that paramedic in town.

**V: PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Harry Lamb: Asked what SOG's they are currently working under. Jon Osborne said the old guidelines until they get the new one's back from the attorney. Mr. Lamb said on December 21, Mr. Osborne moved to adopt the revised SOG's and said they take affect immediately. Jon responded that they were in the process of having them prepared for everyone when he found out they had to go to the town attorney. Until those are back from the town attorney, the department is operating under the old SOG's. Mr. Lamb feels everyone should receive a copy so they can read it.

During last month's meeting, Mr. Lamb was present expecting a non-public session. He feels under past practice and policy, the BOFW has always granted a non-public session the day it was requested. During the meeting, he waited for his turn in the non-public session, but the session ended and the meeting was adjourned abruptly. He felt the board turned their back on him and he felt discriminated against. He also feels he was treated this way because of who he is and who he associates with. He felt the board should have at least told him the decision would be in the mail. Jon Osborne apologized and recognized he had the right to be upset. Mr. Osborne says the non-publics have not been run correctly. When a hearing is requested, the request is taken up by the board in a non-public session, and the request is denied or accepted. When it is accepted, it has to be done at a future date so that all people involved can be notified and can be present. Bill Tiffany asked Mr. Osborne if anyone requests a hearing, the attorney says we can't bring them in while we discuss whether or not we are going to accept or deny their request. Mr. Osborne said no, it is up to the board to accept or deny the request.

Jan Snyder: Said the board 'attempted' to adopt the personnel policy, and asked what was the reason for that? Mr. Osborne said the board runs under the SOG's and the town's personnel policy, and they have to adopt the personnel policy as a board for the fire department. Ms. Snyder said the following month, parts of the policy were deleted. She asked if on March 8, was the board using the whole personnel policy when dealing with discipline and grievance. Mr. Osborne explained that the discipline and grievance is different for the fire department than it is for the town. Ms. Snyder said the old SOG's do not state you have to have your appeal in within 5 days. Mr. Osborne said they did it per town council.

Ms. Snyder felt that the towns meetings were not posted appropriately, so any action the board took on any matter during the April and May meeting is null and void.

Ms. Snyder is not happy by last meetings minutes and felt her point was not brought across clearly. She said she wanted the whole situation in the minutes and not just the expletives.

Jon Osborne moved for the board to go into a non-public session at 7:27 PM; Frederick Hippler seconded, all voted in favor.

Jon Osborne moved for the board to come out of the non-public session at 8:10 PM; Frederick Hippler seconded, all voted in favor.

Board of Fire Wards  
May 10, 2010 Meeting Minutes  
“FINAL”  
Page 4

**ADJOURNMENT:**

As there was no further business to come before the board, Jon Osborne moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM, Frederick Hippler seconded, all voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila Savaria, Recording Secretary